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THE CHACHALACA OF INTERIOR CHIAPAS.

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The only chachalaca specimens known from interior Chiapas consist of a small series collected in 1941 in the upper part of the Grand Valley. Part of this series went to the Conover collection and has been referred to *Ortalis vetula intermedia* Peters, the race of the lower part of the Yucatan peninsula (cf. Hellmayr and Conover, Zool. Ser. Field Mus. Nat. Hist., 13, 1, pt. 1, No. 1, 1942, p. 171). While these birds resemble *intermedia* more closely than they do any other form, they differ in certain respects, besides occupying an area which seems to be entirely cut off from the territory of *intermedia* by the ranges of more dissimilar subspecies.

The ranges of the various forms of *Ortalis* in southern Mexico and northern Central America are delimited in large part by physiography and humidity. Two forms, *O. vetula poliocephala* (Wagler) and *O. v. leucogastra* (Gould), are confined to the Pacific side, the former in the arid northern part, the latter in the more humid southern portion. The southernmost record for *poliocephala* is Tonala, Chiapas, which has 1,100 mm. annual rainfall. The most northern stations for *leucogastra* are in the District of Soconusco in Chiapas, which has over 2,000 mm. of rain. Both of these forms are often considered as specifically distinct from the Atlantic coast races of *vetula*.

The latter assemblage occupies the entire coastal plain and foothills from the Rio Grande to Honduras (possibly Nicaragua). The breaks between the ranges of the various subspecies of the Atlantic side also correspond very closely to the 1,000 and 2,000 mm. isohyete lines. *O. v. mcalli* Baird, a pale race, inhabits an area with an average rainfall of well under 1,000 mm. per year. The southernmost locality for *mcalli* is Tampico, which has 1,200 mm. of rain.

From Tampico southward the rainfall becomes progressively heavier, reaching 5,400 mm. in northern Chiapas. This area is inhabited by a richly colored race, *O. v. vetula* (Wagler).

O. v. plumbeiceps (Gray) occupies the Caribbean lowlands of Guatemala and Honduras. The rainfall here is perhaps on the average even heavier

than in the area inhabited by *vetula*, and *plumbiceps* differs from that race only in slightly richer coloration. The region between the known ranges of *vetula* and *plumbiceps* has not been visited by bird collectors. From what is known of the country and from the fact that specimens from Verapaz approach the characters of the more northern race, it may be inferred that the two forms intergrade in that area.

Utila Island off the coast of Honduras is the home of *O. v. deschauenseei* Bond, a form which is paler than the mainland race. There are unfortunately no rainfall records for this station.

On the base of the Yucatan peninsula, to the north of the ranges of *vetula* and *plumbiceps*, the rainfall decreases. This is the area inhabited by *O. v. intermedia*, whose southern limit follows very closely the 2,000 mm. isohyetose line and whose northern limit occurs near the 1,000 mm. line. This race is paler than either *vetula* or *plumbiceps*.

In the still more arid tip of the peninsula lives the even paler race, *O. v. pallidiventris* Ridgway. The annual rainfall of this area averages well below 1,000 mm.

The Grand Valley of Chiapas lies in a rain shadow, and the precipitation here is under 1,000 mm. per year. I attribute the resemblance of the chachalacas of this area to those of the base of the Yucatan peninsula to parallelism, induced by similar climatic conditions, since the two areas are separated by a broad humid belt. For the form of interior Chiapas, I propose the name

***Ortalis vetula vallicola*, subsp. nov.**

Type.—Univ. Mich. Mus. Zool. No. 110109; male adult; Malpaso, Chiapas; June 22, 1941; Carlos Ordoñez, collector.

Characters. Most similar to *Ortalis vetula intermedia*, but larger; breast somewhat paler and grayer; flanks, crissum, and thighs on average more brownish olive, less rufescent.

Resembles *O. v. vetula* in size but is paler throughout, including the tips of the rectrices.

Measurements.

SEX	RACE	WING	TAIL
12 ♂	<i>intermedia</i>	184–209 (193.3)	207–235 (221.4)
3 ♂	<i>vallicola</i>	207–214 (210.3)	234–252 (245.3)
7 ♀	<i>intermedia</i>	179–193 (185.4)	208–227 (219.9)
2 ♀	<i>vallicola</i>	192–199 (195.5)	216–239 (227.5)

Material examined. *O. vetula vallicola*: Chiapas (Chicomuselo, 3; Malpaso, 3). *O. vetula intermedia*: Peten (Uxactun, 8), Campeche (Apazote, 2; Matamoros, 4); Tabasco (Montecristo, 1; La Palma, 1; near Reforma, 1; Balancán, 2; Tenosique, 1).

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